



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

City of Tacoma, WA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Tacoma was selected to receive a job training grant. The target population of 224,484 encompasses several census tracts in Pierce County where there are an estimated 29 brownfields for every 10,000



Job Training Grant

\$141,764

EPA has selected the City of Tacoma for a job training grant. Tacoma plans to train 60 individuals, place at least 42 graduates in environmental jobs, and track students for at least one year. The training program will include 184 hours of basic environmental training, including courses in HAZWOPER, spill response, pathogens, environmental chemistry, sampling, soils, watershed analysis, and hydrology. Participants will receive certificates in HAZWOPER, blood borne pathogens, and spill response and will be able to apply credits toward an Associate in Applied Science degree. Clover Park Technical College will conduct the training on its campus, which is eight miles from downtown Tacoma. The Metropolitan Development Council will recruit prospective students through its partnership with over 50 community-based organizations in Pierce County. The city will place graduates in environmental jobs through cooperative agreements with local employers and with the assistance of the Clover Park Technical College Environmental Science Advisory Board and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 10 Brownfields Team
206-553-6378

www.epa.gov/r10earth, click on "Superfund", scroll down and click on "Brownfields"

Grant Recipient: Tacoma, WA
253-594-7933

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

residents. The South Tacoma Way Industrial Area alone has a Superfund site and 30 identified potential brownfields. Tacoma grew as a result of industrial development that included a flourishing maritime industry along Commencement Bay. In the late 1970s, many of the waterfront businesses closed or relocated, leaving a diverse population of low-income residents surrounded by vacant sites. The target population's 7.8 percent unemployment rate exceeds that of any other county in the state. Over 11 percent of the households live in poverty, and 27.8 percent are racial minorities. Rapid development in Tacoma is now fueling the demand for environmental technicians to clean up contaminated sites and prepare them for redevelopment.